

None but christians can be loyal to Christ, but we, who were once rebels and "the children of wrath even as others," have experienced a great and important change, which has been wrought in us, "not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts." He, who at first gave us our being, has created us anew in Christ Jesus unto good works; has stamped his image upon us, and made us partakers of his own nature. "old things have passed away; behold, all things are become new," so that the cleansed fountain of our hearts sends forth pure streams, the tree has been made good, and now yields good fruit, and we who were the servants of sin, are made the loving and loyal subjects of Immanuel. Yet, notwithstanding the knowledge of this fact, we are often almost overwhelmed with the surprising grandeur of the thought, that the King of heaven, should so condesoend, as to permit us to do him homage, and to graciously accept the imperfect service of our hearts and hands. Such wonderful condescension, would indeed be incredible to us, did we not remember that, God loved us and "sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins"—that he so "commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us,"—that, by his grace he hath filled our hearts with loving loyalty to himself and to his cause—and that, he has made our persons and our works acceptable to him in the Beloved. He now regards us with the tenderest affection, and owns us as his friends. Oh! how great is our dignity, how high and glorious is our calling, and how deep is our responsibility to our King.

Loyal subjects are always obedient servants, the Apostle says: "for this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not grievous." It is not enough that we profess to love Him, but, we are required to produce, by an obedient and godly life, the evidence that love to him dwells in our hearts. "Faith without works is dead," so love to Christ cannot exist in the heart of that man, who, is living in known disobedience to His revealed will. Hence, the Master himself says, "if ye love me keep my commandments," and again, "ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." Oh! for grace to enable us to render to Him that obedience which he so explicitly demands in his word, from all who love him. It is his will, that, our obedience be prompt, not deferring through fear of the wrath of man—that it be cheerful, the willing service of our hearts and hands—that it be constant, not for a time only—and that it be universal, not having respect to some of his commandments, but to all of them. Let us remember that our King will permit no reserve, but will have us to understand distinctly that his "*whatsoever*," comprehends all things, all time, and all eternity.

Loyalty to Christ always includes fidelity to his cause, "He loved His church and gave himself for it," and it naturally follows that, if we love him, we shall love the church which he redeemed with his own precious blood, and we shall ever labor and pray for its prosperity. That the kingdom of our Redeemer may be extended, and the glory of our King may be increased among men, we must be willing to do anything and be anything, yea, to count it all joy, if we be esteemed worthy to suffer persecution for his sake and for the good of his cause. His loving, loyal subjects, ever consider it a glorious privilege to be permitted to lay their talents, their influence, their time, their property, and all that they have and are,